

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



For the information of N. C. A. members exclusively
Publication or reproduction not permitted

No. 325

Washington, D. C.

September 28, 1929

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Food and drug officials endorse labeling bill	1685	Suspends proposed change in paper container classification	1693
Association makes no pack forecasts	1685	Vitamin content of canned pears	1693
Pea pack in 1929	1690	Kamchatka salmon canning in 1929 ..	1694
Debate continued on administrative sections of tariff bill	1686	Developments in Fiji Island pineapple canning	1695
Weather conditions	1687	Japanese firm ships canned Korean mackerel to London	1695
Truck crop markets	1688	Salvador considering food factory concessions	1695
Exports of canned foods during August	1690	Australian cannery contract for fruit from settlers	1695
Trend of business and financial conditions in September	1690	Sterilization by cooling authorized for Florida fruit	1696
Canned tomato imports continue heavy	1691	Leaflet on canned pea pack	1696
Canned milk market	1692		
Business conditions	1692		
Complaint filed on canned grapefruit rates	1693		

Food and Drug Officials Endorse Labeling Bill

The National Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, at its meeting this week in Lincoln, Neb., adopted resolutions favoring the passage of the proposed amendment to the Food and Drugs Act requiring the informative labeling of inferior canned foods. The resolution as adopted by the Association states:

"Whereas this Association is of the opinion that legislation which will result in furnishing more label information is in the interest of the public; and

"Whereas the proposed amendment to the Federal Food and Drugs Act, known as H. R. 730 and S. 1133, is designed to require such label information with respect to canned food; therefore be it

"Resolved that this Association go on record as favoring the passage of this amendment; and be it further

"Resolved that we recommend the adoption of measures for its proper enforcement."

Association Makes No Pack Forecasts

An item appearing in a number of newspapers throughout the country quotes the National Canners Association as having made an estimate of this year's prospective pack of canned corn,

peas and tomatoes. A number of inquiries have been received from canners and others respecting this published statement, to all of which the Association has replied that it does not expect to deviate from its established policy of refraining from making forecasts of either canning crops or packs.

In the Information Letter the Association publishes as soon as available the crop condition reports and crop forecasts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It has never attempted, however, to use these forecasts as a means of forecasting the probable pack of the various products. The item previously referred to apparently was based on an estimate in which the pack figures published by the Association were used along with the crop forecasts of the Department of Agriculture to arrive at an estimate of the probable pack.

Pea Pack in 1929

The pack of canned peas in 1929, as compiled by the National Canners Association, was equivalent to 19,143,000 cases of No. 2's. This is an increase of about 7 per cent as compared with the pack of 17,943,436 cases in 1928. The following table shows the pack during the last five years. The figures for 1927 and 1928 were compiled by the U. S. Census Bureau, and for the other years by the National Canners Association.

States	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Wisconsin	10,003,000	9,287,000	6,549,449	9,248,078	10,147,000
New York	2,885,000	2,624,000	1,667,677	2,392,161	1,683,000
Michigan	431,000	723,000	899,255	841,875	538,000
Indiana	86,000	300,000	98,907	427,294	380,000
Maryland	956,000	840,000	985,691	1,080,181	1,480,000
Ohio	282,000	278,000	205,118	385,743	337,000
Delaware	357,000	145,000	267,145	241,691	582,000
New Jersey					
Utah	1,346,000	1,029,000	801,709	1,153,795	1,241,000
California	271,000	223,000	(a)	(b)	89,000
Illinois	357,000	680,000	363,246	616,716	767,000
Minnesota	432,000	446,000	496,776	722,032	926,000
Montana	(a)	(a)	267,689	397,135	371,000
Pennsylvania	(a)	(a)	181,116	167,132	335,000
Washington	(a)	(a)	186,516	(b)	202,000
All other states	1,040,000	937,000	323,600	819,463	495,000
Total	17,816,000	17,709,000	19,936,017	17,948,436	19,222,000

(a) Included in "All other states."

(b) Pack of California and Washington combined, totaling 379,112 cases, included in "All other states."

Debate Continued on Administrative Sections of Tariff Bill

The Senate during the week of September 23 continued debate on the special and administrative sections of the tariff bill, taking up the flexible tariff provisions on Tuesday. The

discussion of these provisions and the sections relating to the Tariff Commission may extend through another week.

Before reaching the flexible tariff provisions the Senate rejected a Finance Committee amendment to section 584 relating to the smuggling of opium. The Committee amendment had struck from the bill the provision to extend to the owners of common carriers liability for such smuggling aboard their vessels. The Senate accepted, however, the Committee's amendment to the same section of the bill striking out an extension to vessel owners of the liability for failing to manifest merchandise other than opium.

The Senate also approved the Committee's amendments permitting the entry of merchandise on carriers' certificates as well as on duplicate bills of lading, and permitting the release of merchandise in bonded warehouse from customs custody only to the proprietor of the warehouse. A committee amendment was accepted that prohibited entry into the United States of merchandise manufactured abroad bearing American trade marks owned by American citizens, or bearing the United States patent notices.

Officials of the House have announced that the House on October 14 will agree to continue its three-day recesses until October 23. When the Congress recessed it was with the understanding that the House would meet on September 23 but would immediately recess twice a week without transacting any controversial business until October 14. As the Senate is not expected to complete its work on the tariff by the latter date, the three-day recess plan will be continued until the 23rd.

Weather Conditions

Frosts, more or less severe, covered a rather wide area during the week ended September 24, extending from Pennsylvania, the northern part of the northern Ohio Valley states, and much of Iowa northward, according to the Weather Bureau. Considerable damage resulted to late crops and tender vegetation in some sections, but harm was rather spotted and confined to the lower ground in many places. The generally cool weather from the Mississippi Valley eastward retarded the maturing of crops. In some areas of the Southeast, especially in Alabama, showers were helpful to minor crops, and they were beneficial in some Atlantic Coast States, but in other sections they were not needed.

From the Mississippi Valley eastward late corn matured slowly because of the unseasonably cool weather, but this was partly offset in the Ohio Valley by an abundance of sunshine. In the western belt the crop is largely matured. Frosts were rather general in the northern portion of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and in the northern three-fourths of Iowa, as well in all sections to the northward. Much corn had matured in the frosted area, but there was more or less damage to the late crop, especially on lowlands in the northern Ohio Valley states, and also from Pennsylvania northeastward. In Iowa the frost killed the leaves of corn, but penetrated husks only in local areas where ears will be chaffy. In the northern Great Plains states there was only slight damage as the crop had mostly matured, with about 85 per cent safe as far south as Nebraska. In Missouri, where much corn is not yet safe from frost, progress toward maturity was slow.

Truck Crop Markets

Movement of fruits and vegetables was rapidly catching up with last year's corresponding record and reached the high total of 29,610 cars of 28 products during the third week of September. Sharpest increases over the preceding week occurred for potatoes, grapes, apples, onions and fresh prunes. Potato movement alone increased by 2,000 cars. The season was nearing an end for cantaloupes, watermelons and peaches. Eastern grape shipments were becoming active.

Grapefruit shipments, mainly from Florida, increased rapidly to 165 cars, as against 25 a year ago. Output of fresh prunes was reaching a high mark in Idaho, when 700 cars rolled last week, compared with 415 during the same period in 1928. Washington and Oregon shipped about 140 cars.

The principal sources of late tomato supply were Indiana, New York, New Jersey and California. Some of the shipments probably were going to canneries. The week's total was 710 cars. With estimated production of nearly 6,000,000 bushels of late tomatoes in California and a few other States combined, the carlot movement will continue active until severe frosts occur.

Cabbage shipments held at the moderate total of 700 cars for the week, but prices declined further. New York State shipped 315 cars, while Wisconsin increased to 190, and Colorado and Virginia forwarded 50 or 60 each.

Peak of the late peach movement may have been passed, as the combined movement from several shipping areas dropped to 2,050 cars. California output decreased to 635, Washington to 115 and Colorado to 415 cars, while Michigan shipped only 30. New York increased sharply to 505 and Utah to 300 cars.

Apple movement was fast gaining. About 3,090 cars left producing sections during the week, of which 2,300 were from eastern or central States. Eastern shipments last week lacked one-fourth of equaling the corresponding movement of a year ago, but western apple movement was only one-third as heavy as in mid-September, 1928. The Virginias furnished 1,240 cars during the week; New York and Illinois each exceeded 200, and Kansas was also quite active.

Growers of Iceberg-type lettuce in Imperial Valley, California, are planning to increase their plantings to the very high total of 35,000 acres this winter, and the winter crop in Arizona may require an increase to 18,000 acres. Prospective plantings in four early States together are 55,740 acres, compared with 46,820 last season. This would break previous records.

Of the week's supply of 1,080 cars of sweet potatoes, Virginia alone was credited with 730, while New Jersey and Tennessee each originated about 100 cars.

Even though pear shipments were averaging nearly 275 cars daily, market values were well sustained. California's output dropped to 375 cars, while Oregon increased to 725 and Washington to 270 cars. Illinois started 250 to market and New York had increased to 60.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Sept. 15-21 1929	Sept. 8-14 1929	Sept. 16-22 1928	Total this season to Sept. 21	Total last season to Sept. 22	Total last season
Apples, total	3,087	2,440	5,129	18,238	19,530	127,531
Eastern states	2,297	1,912	3,051	10,096	12,550	82,760
Western states	790	528	2,078	3,152	6,980	54,821
Cabbage	760	728	984	26,385	21,685	38,853
Carrots	148	92	124	9,667	5,719	7,542
Cauliflower	128	116	212	743	683	9,889
Cucumbers	66	126	111	7,635	7,251	7,468
Green peas	88	35	18	4,931	4,518	4,688
Mixed deciduous fruit	285	448	202	4,409	5,941	6,490
Mixed vegetables	582	598	538	26,258	27,375	33,384
Peaches	2,048	3,222	1,421	84,325	58,590	57,706
Pears	1,812	1,755	1,492	18,948	18,308	24,430
Peppers	66	50	71	2,611	2,991	3,569
Plums and prunes	870	518	560	4,776	6,819	7,295
Spinach	31	10	9	9,717	10,022	10,372
String beans	39	88	13	7,409	6,102	6,767
Tomatoes	708	825	1,006	26,390	28,219	30,357

Exports of Canned Foods During August

Exports of canned foods in August, as compared with the same month last year, were characterized by an increase in the shipments of meats, fruits, and salmon and sardines, while there were decreases in vegetables and canned milk. The following table, compiled from records of the Department of Commerce, shows the quantity and value of the leading products exported during August, 1928 and 1929.

Articles	August, 1928		August, 1929	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	812,858	\$900,767	1,227,562	\$483,972
Beef	155,372	53,748	203,213	63,385
Pork	808,075	136,421	745,321	292,697
Sausage	110,971	43,514	137,569	45,931
Other	156,940	47,684	139,459	42,599
Canned vegetables, total	4,874,016	834,837	5,986,696	631,386
Asparagus	2,115,095	316,123	1,784,922	322,363
Baked beans, and pork and beans	997,679	72,784	549,812	83,709
Corn	492,464	82,533	313,533	23,339
Peas	1,081,683	102,732	1,065,916	96,544
Soups	2,904,889	236,632	854,130	89,297
Tomatoes	358,845	15,159	133,934	16,806
Other	328,193	39,092	1,296,739	66,318
Condensed milk	2,376,659	330,630	3,365,679	538,361
Evaporated milk	8,842,916	921,717	4,609,647	436,532
Canned fruits, total	23,029,454	2,192,615	22,624,000	2,442,999
Apples and applesauce	812,344	31,437	412,183	19,934
Apricots	2,647,649	229,494	4,622,900	424,445
Berries	1,326,198	191,180	2,861,531	301,363
Cherries	193,448	26,607	161,462	24,361
Fruits for salad	2,370,951	351,809
Peaches	9,431,969	722,366	8,130,390	506,290
Pears	3,842,926	899,646	2,093,024	298,230
Pineapple	4,330,596	466,945	4,737,853	396,641
Prunes	109,674	18,305	79,921	9,429
Other	474,556	49,647	865,783	33,900
Salmon	2,795,192	532,666	3,779,734	749,977
Sardines	5,026,904	439,592	6,786,618	534,148

Trend of Business and Financial Conditions in September

Production in basic industries increased somewhat in August as compared with July, but the increase was less than is usual at this season, with the consequence that the Federal Reserve Board's index of industrial production, which makes allowance for usual seasonal changes, showed a decline. Wholesale prices declined slightly. Credit extended by member banks increased between the middle of August and the middle of September, reflecting chiefly a growth in commercial loans.

During the month of August the Federal Reserve Board's report states, there was a reduction in the output of iron and steel and copper, and a slight decline in the production of automobiles. Meat-packing establishments were also somewhat less active during the month, while seasonal increases were reported in the production of textiles and shoes, coal and cement, flour and

sugar, and petroleum output continued to expand. A slight increase in the number of workers employed in factories was accompanied by a substantial increase in payrolls. This increase was especially notable in industries manufacturing products for the autumn retail trade, such as clothing and furniture.

For the first two weeks of September reports indicate further decline in steel operations, reduction in lumber output resulting in part from the Labor Day holiday, and a continued seasonal rise in coal production.

In the construction industry contracts awarded in August were 25 per cent less than in July, reflecting a sharp decline in the residential group as well as in contracts for public works and utilities which were unusually large in July. As compared with last year contracts were 5 per cent lower in August, but in the first two weeks of September they were in approximately the same volume as in 1928.

Canned Tomato Imports Continue Heavy

Imports of canned tomatoes in August were practically double those in August last year, and for the first eight months of 1929 the imports have amounted to 64,070,304 pounds, as compared with 39,760,681 pounds in the corresponding period of 1928.

Tomato paste imports in August were less than in the same month last year, and the imports for the eight-months period in 1929 were also slightly less than in 1928.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the canned tomato and tomato paste imports, by month, during the last two years:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1928				
January	12,030,694	\$606,405	2,318,590	\$319,000
February	7,909,408	446,298	593,268	56,268
March	4,340,166	243,036	354,272	42,192
April	4,178,502	265,942	435,923	43,651
May	4,190,332	236,987	539,099	59,431
June	3,373,618	194,179	430,487	46,546
July	2,708,708	169,592	274,591	35,025
August	710,144	50,790	523,255	56,878
Total	39,670,681	2,298,531	5,490,481	360,846
1929				
January	11,564,953	691,913	836,699	117,092
February	10,670,374	605,530	831,923	118,938
March	8,932,126	525,136	775,996	113,261
April	7,514,409	448,360	866,977	126,149
May	10,092,992	579,693	431,036	57,783
June	9,567,189	607,610	646,921	95,920
July	5,107,339	298,480	510,560	73,760
August	1,401,196	78,093	446,566	49,624
Total	64,070,304	3,785,034	5,390,696	759,422

Canned Milk Market

The unsteady tone on case goods in the condensed and evaporated milk markets which developed during the middle of August was carried over into September, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Manufacturers' wholesale prices on domestic sales as reported for August show an average decline of 4 cents per case on sweetened condensed and 20 cents a case on unsweetened evaporated. Current market information indicates but little likelihood of any upward changes in prices in the immediate future.

The demand for bulk condensed has remained strong, and on September 1st wholesale prices showed an increase of 15 cents per hundredweight on condensed unskimmed and 6 cents per hundredweight on condensed skimmed. While offerings of these commodities have been liberal at the advanced prices they have been absorbed without difficulty.

Total manufacturers' stocks of condensed and evaporated milk of 334,514,471 pounds on September 1st continue high as compared with a total of 212,168,960 pounds on the same date last year and a five-year average of 241,997,908 pounds. Total stocks showed a decrease of 12,000,000 pounds from August 1st holdings, and when considered in connection with an increase in August production of approximately 16,000,000 pounds over the same month in 1928, indicates a total disappearance of around 28,000,000. This is 8,000,000 pounds greater than last year.

Business Conditions

Commercial transactions, as reflected by the volume of check payments covering the week ended September 21, were considerably larger than in either the preceding week or the corresponding period of 1928, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce.

The movement of commodities into consumption, as reflected by freight-car loadings, covering the latest reported period, continued above the corresponding period of 1928.

The general level of wholesale prices was fractionally lower than in the preceding week and showed a decline of about 4 per cent from the same period of last year.

Bank loans and discounts showed expansion as compared with both the preceding week and the same period of 1928. Interest rates on call funds averaged higher than in either

period, while rates on time money, showing no change from the previous week, were higher than a year ago.

Business failures were less numerous than in either the previous week or the same period of 1928.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Micellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended September 14	1,133,062	464,298	269,343	419,522
Preceding week	1,017,072	407,373	234,552	374,947
Corresponding week, 1928	1,138,060	460,340	266,921	410,899
Corresponding week, 1927	1,127,613	448,331	268,550	410,732

Complaint Filed on Canned Grapefruit Rates

A complaint has been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission asking the establishment of just and reasonable rates on shipments of canned grapefruit from Frostproof, Fla., to Great Falls, Montana.

Suspends Proposed Change in Paper Container Classification

Schedules filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission proposing to increase the existing carload rating on empty fibre-board, paper, pulp board, or strawboard cans or bottles from third class to second class in Southern Classification Territory, have been suspended by the Commission from October 1, 1929, until May 1, 1930.

Vitamin Content of Canned Pears

In contrast to the results reported with home-canned pears, in which vitamin C was almost completely destroyed by the open-kettle method and largely destroyed by the cold-pack method, Kieffer pears when they were still hard and green at the time of harvesting, were commercially canned with no apparent loss of vitamin C, provided the oxygen was removed by a suitable procedure. Even when no particular pains were taken to remove this oxygen, beyond those commonly practiced in commercial canning, the loss of Vitamin C was not great. Allowing the Kieffer pears to ripen and mellow previous to canning resulted in a commercially canned product in which approximately one-third of the vitamin C was lost. The vitamin C content of the canned Bartlett pears was approximately that of the canned ripened Kieffer pears.

These are part of the findings reported in the eighth of a series of articles, published in "Industrial and Engineering Chemistry" for September, giving the results of vitamin studies conducted jointly by the laboratory of Teachers College of Columbia University and the research laboratory of the National Canners Association. In the work on pears, the laboratory of the Department of Food and Nutrition of the Kansas State Agricultural College also cooperated.

The article further states that Bartlett pears, raw or canned, are relatively low in vitamins A and B, but approximately equal to apples in this respect.

Kieffer pears were not tested for their vitamin A and B content. Undoubtedly they would be similar to Bartlett pears.

Animals receiving 15 grams of canned Bartlett pears were comparable to those receiving 15 grams of raw pears. This suggests that possibly the lower vitamin C content of canned ripened Kieffer pears as compared with the canned green pears is to be ascribed to the ripening and mellowing process rather than to the effect of canning, a condition found to be true with apples.

Reprints of the above article will shortly be available to those who request it.

Kamchatka Salmon Canning in 1929

Catches of pink salmon in the Eastern Kamchatka coast are better than during the 1928 season, but salmon trout catches are poor, according to the assistant trade commissioner of the Department of Commerce at Tokyo.

It is anticipated that the salmon packed on the eastern coast will reach only 80,000 cases, compared with 330,000 cases during 1928, and that the western coast pack will amount to probably 320,000 cases as compared with 440,000 cases last year. If the present estimates are correct it will mean that the catch this year is only a trifle more than half as much as last year's. It should be stated, however, that the catch during 1928 was extremely large.

The following figures show the pack during the past few years: 1924, 508,546 cases; 1925, 465,333 cases; 1926, 525,646 cases; 1927, 520,000 cases; 1928, 770,000 cases; 1929, 400,000 cases.

Developments in Fiji Island Pineapple Canning

Pineapple canning bids fair to develop into a substantial industry of the Fiji Islands, according to the American Vice Consul at Suva. The Fiji Pineapple Company is erecting a new plant and the West Coast Pines (Fiji) Ltd., is constructing its plant to start production this year. Between the two companies it is expected that the production will total over 10,000 cases. In addition to these two companies, an American company is reported to have definitely accepted its option to experiment on a large acreage leased from the Colonial Government at a very low rental and plans to commence operations at the end of the present year.

Japanese Firm Ships Canned Korean Mackerel to London

The Fusan (Korea) office of Mitsui Bussan Kaisha recently shipped to London 250 cases of canned Korean boiled mackerel, according to the assistant trade commissioner at Tokyo. This fish is sold under the brand of "Union" and it is reported to have proved eminently satisfactory for the London market. It is stated that this canned mackerel is popular in Europe as a substitute for salmon and that formerly supplies have been obtained from United States and Norway. The Korean fish is said to have compared favorably in price and quality, and a British firm is reported to have applied for the sole agency for this tinned mackerel.

Salvador Considering Food Factory Concessions

The National Assembly of Salvador has taken under advisement the requests for concessions for the establishment of a factory for preserving foodstuffs with sole exploitation rights for a period of 20 years, according to a report received in the Department of Commerce from the U. S. Minister to El Salvador.

Australian Cannery Contract for Fruit from Settlers

During July a canning contract was entered into between the Associate Cannery of Sydney and the settlers of Griffith and Yenda sections and portions of the Yance section of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area, by which Sydney cannery have agreed to take 2,200 tons of peaches and 250 tons of apricots annually for five years at 9 pounds sterling per ton for peaches and 10 pounds for apricots, delivered on rail, according to the American trade commissioner at Sydney.

The canners also undertake to supply cases for transport of the fruit to Sydney and pay the cooperative societies a handling fee of 5 per cent. This arrangement is a death knell to the proposal made by cooperative growers of Griffith and Yenda a few weeks ago to take over the State cannery at Leeton and run it as a cooperative enterprise that would handle the whole of the canning fruit on the Irrigation area. The growers of the Leeton section of the area turned down this proposal and the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission of the New South Wales, which controls the irrigation areas of New South Wales, was undecided in its attitude. However, by this contract all negotiations are at an end and the Leeton cannery remains on the State's hands, probably to incur still further losses.

Sterilization By Cooling Authorized For Florida Fruit

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced an enlargement of the provision for sterilization by refrigeration of citrus fruit moving interstate from Florida. This enlargement, effective September 20, consists in authorizing such sterilization to be carried out not only in Florida as hitherto but also in designated cold storages approved by the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration in the District of Columbia or the States of Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and such other northern states as may later be approved. Fruit to be treated at localities outside of Florida must be graded, packed in standard commercial containers and shipped under special permits issued by the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration. Such permits will authorize movement only under ice in refrigerated cars and to designated cold storages.

It should be understood that sterilization is not being considered as a means of authorizing movement of infested fruit. All infested fruit will be promptly destroyed. The requirement of sterilization therefore applies to areas believed to be entirely free from the pest with the object of eliminating any residual of risk, even after intensive inspection.

Leaflet on Canned Pea Pack

With this issue of the Information Letter is mailed the annual statistical leaflet on the pack of canned peas. The figures in this leaflet give a record of the pack from 1908 to 1929, inclusive. The statistics were compiled by the National Canners Association except for 1917 and 1918, when the work was done by the Food Administration, and for 1927 and 1928, when the figures were collected by the U. S. Census Bureau.